



BASS LAKE BULLETIN

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OAK KNOLL PARK POOL AGAIN SAVED BY BLAC

Quick work by Bass Lake Action Committee has again forestalled the closing of the swimming pool at Oak Knoll Park in the Hills of El Dorado. The staff of the El Dorado Hills Community Services District (CSD) was recommending that the pool be closed and filled in "because of the high cost to maintain and operate a pool and the historically poor attendance at the Oak Knoll pool," according to El Dorado Hills Community Services District General Manager Wayne Lowery.

Several years ago, Bass Lake Action



Oak Knoll Park Clubhouse

Committee was instrumental in keeping the swim programs at Oak Knoll pool open during the summer. At that time, BLAC successfully argued that the Bass Lake area was underserved by the CSD with respect to parks and recreation and that the pool should remain open.

This time, in response to the threatened closing of the pool, BLAC members Hal Erpenbeck, Kathy Prevost and Tasha Boutselis attended the Parks and Planning Committee meeting held on Tuesday, February 26, 2008, to make a case for keeping the pool open. In their discussion with the committee, made up of CSD Directors David Trapani and Tony Rogozinski, the BLAC representatives made the directors aware of some pertinent financial information concerning the park and the pool.

The pool and clubhouse at Oak Knoll Park were built by Forecast Homes as a condition of developing the Hills of El Dorado.

The park consists of 2.6 acres of land, less than ten percent of which is landscaped. Approximately ten percent of the land is taken up with the pool and the clubhouse. The remainder is oak canopy or open space that needs little or no maintenance.

The Bass Lake Lighting and Landscaping Districts A and B (L&LD) are used for the the maintenance and upkeep of the park and the pool, according to BLAC director Hal Erpenbeck. Erpenbeck called the committee's attention to the fact that the L&LD has funds of almost a quarter of a million dollars in it to help maintain the pool.

With respect to the supposed lack of pool usage, BLAC members pointed out that the pool was only open about 113 hours during the summer of 2007.



Oak Knoll Park Pool

Erpenbeck also noted that of the over two dozen recreational sites owned by the CSD, there are only two parks in the Bass Lake community, Oak Knoll and Laurel Oaks.

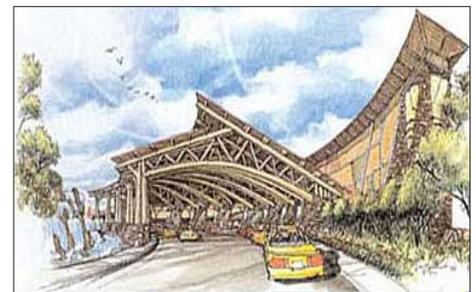
As a result of the meeting, the Committee decided to recommend keeping the budgeted amounts for Oak Knoll at their proposed level. Members Rogozinski and Trapani decided that the pool should remain open for the 2008 summer season, and instructed the CSD Recreation Director to plan to offer swim programs at the pool this summer.

In the long run, CSD staff is recommending that a Master Plan be developed for Oak Knoll Park and Pool. Public meetings will be scheduled during this Spring to gather information about the recreational wants of the neighborhood. All Bass Lake residents are encouraged to attend the meetings and

make their opinions known.

In the meantime, BLAC will be looking into the cost to maintain the park and pool to make sure that the CSD is taking advantage of any money-saving strategies, such as providing a floating pool cover for the pool to save water evaporation and keep the pool water warm.

Thanks to all of our neighbors who helped us demonstrate the need for the park and the pool by calling and emailing the CSD.~



Artist's concept of the new casino

FOOTHILL OAKS CASINO CELEBRATES MILESTONE

Motorists traveling along Highway 50 near Shingle Springs certainly notice the construction of the freeway overpass that will eventually be the entrance to the new Foothill Oaks Casino. What is not so evident is the construction of the casino itself, tucked away behind the hills just north of Highway 50.

The Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians recently announced that the final steel beam was placed for their new Foothill Oaks Casino, marking a milestone in the construction of the casino building.

Approximately 200 tribal members attended the ceremony, signing the last beam put in place by general contractor Rudolph & Sletten.

A commemorative plaque was presented to Tribal Chairman Fonseca and the Tribal Council by Tim Cope, president and chief financial officer of Lakes Entertainment

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Location of the new shopping center to be anchored by a Home Depot store

CAMERON PARK HOME DEPOT UNVEILS PLANS

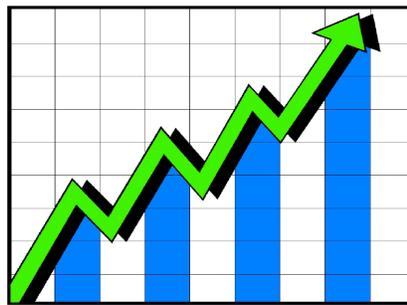
Home Depot, undaunted by the complaints of nearby residents, recently unveiled their plans for their store and a proposed 28-acre shopping center in Cameron Park. Contrary to initial impressions, the Home Depot store will not stand alone, but will be a tenant in the larger shopping center.

The parcel to be developed is bounded by Country Club Drive on the north, Highway 50 on the south, Cambridge Road to the east and Deer Creek to the west. The property is zoned commercial under the El Dorado County General Plan. The developers will be responsible for upgrading roads and intersections leading to the project through the payment of traffic impact mitigation (TIM) fees to the county.

Developers said that the project would be good for Cameron Park, creating an economic benefit and bringing jobs to the community. The proposed center was described as a mixed use development that will include several restaurants, an upscale grocery, and other retail shops.

The new Home Depot will provide about 175 new jobs out of the total of about 300 new jobs for the entire shopping center. Sixty-eight percent of the Home Depot jobs will be full time, with the rest part time, according a Home Depot spokesman.

Developer representatives said that they had filed a pre-application on the site with the county, and will be doing an environmental impact report that will take six months to a year to complete. ~



WHAT'S UP WITH PROPANE PRICES

Those of us that use propane instead of natural gas are wondering why we are paying so much more for propane this winter. Though it's no comfort, every domestic fuel source has experienced price hikes this year when compared to a year ago. There are several key factors contributing to higher propane prices.

First, higher crude oil and natural gas prices affect propane prices. Because propane is derived from both crude oil and natural gas, its price tracks the prices of those energy sources—particularly the cost of crude oil, since propane competes mostly with crude oil-based fuels for heating. The price for a barrel of crude oil has been rising for the past few years, recently reaching an all-time high. The inventory of natural gas has remained lower than normal, due to distribution issues and continued growing demands by U.S. industries. Demand for heating fuels naturally rise in winter and the resulting lower supply leads to higher prices.

Second, the nature of supply and demand. While propane is produced year-round, residential demand for propane is highly seasonal. This seasonality causes inventories to increase when demand is low in the summer, and decrease when demand is greater in the winter.

Third, seasonal weather conditions. Colder temperatures during the winter months increase the demand for propane, which reduces supplies. Propane retailers are prepared to meet the demand, but predictions of long-term weather trends are difficult.

Last, international influences. The global propane market is constantly changing. An increasing number of new customers are turning to propane all over the world, particularly in Asian markets like China. Labor and political unrest elsewhere, including the Middle East and Africa, also contribute to higher energy prices. Although the majority of propane sold in the U.S. is "American-made," we do import propane as well. Current U.S. propane prices have led to record imports of the fuel to help retailers meet demand. As a result of the increased competition between the U.S. and the rest of the world, wholesale prices have risen, and therefore so have retail prices to the consumer.

According to the U.S. Energy Information Administration, 58% of U.S. households are heated with natural gas, 30% with electricity, 7% with heating oil, and 5% with propane.

The average cost of heating a home in the wintertime varies, depending on the fuel source. The nationwide average is \$2,019 for homes that use heating oil, \$1,691 for propane-gas heat, \$884 for natural-gas heat, and \$832 for electric heat. Local utility rates may affect your situation.

While the factors that contribute to higher fuel prices cannot be controlled by propane retailers or consumers, there are some simple steps customers can take to lower their energy bill year-round. These are projects that can be undertaken in the summer before the cold weather hits: (1) Protect against drafts by caulking and weather-stripping around windows, doors, and other openings such as ducts, fans, and vents. (2) Inspect and tune-up your residential heating system regularly for efficiency. (3) Contact your local propane retailer to inquire about a home heating system inspection, as a properly working heating system is more efficient and will save you money. (4) Change your furnace filter monthly, because clean filters will help your heating system work more efficiently. (5) Invest in a furnace thermostat timer that

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THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER



Hello Everyone,

Too often people think that economics is just about numbers and statistics and formulas. Instead, economics is about human psychology and human behavior. Economics is the study of the interplay of greed and fear. Unsustainable booms happen when greed for gain overcomes fear of loss, which in turn ultimately leads to busts.

When I taught economics, I emphasized two principles: "Cash is king," and "Something is only worth what someone will pay for it." A corollary is that if something costs you no cash, you don't care about paying a high price.

For several years, inflation and easy money created the false impression in many people's minds that housing prices could only go up. Speculators started buying houses as an investment with no cash down, figuring they would turn them over in a few months. Lenders started making nothing down loans to people who normally wouldn't qualify, pocketing the profits when they sold those loans to investors. People were willing to pay more and more for homes because it took no cash to buy them.

Inventory eventually exceeded demand, reality set in, and now we are seeing the result. House prices are dropping, mortgage interest rates are going up, foreclosures are going up, and the housing boom has turned into a housing bust. Lenders are getting cautious. Consumers are getting cautious. Fear has replaced greed.

It will probably take a recession to enable us to get back to a reasonable balance between greed and fear.

Remember that economies run in cycles, and so if we do have a recession, it will eventually end as the bad debt is liquidated and the excess housing inventories are used up.

Today's housing market is like the party-goer who wakes up in the morning with a bad hangover. Eventually he will feel better, but not until the effects wear

off. Those who didn't drink as much at the party will feel fine. I hope that you are among the latter.

John E. Thomson
President

PROPANE COSTS *(continued)*

can save money by lowering your home's temperature when you are not at home. You can cut annual heating bills by as much as 10 percent per year by turning your thermostat back 10-15 percent for eight hours per day. (6) When using a water heater, turn it down from the standard 140 degrees to 130 degrees, and you may save more than 10 percent on your water-heating bill. Increase your water heater's efficiency by draining it every six months to remove lime deposits and sediment. (7) Install flow-restricting showerheads, as you can reduce hot water usage by up to 50 percent without affecting shower pressure. (8) Run washing machines with a full load and consider washing clothes with cold water. (9) Close the furnace vents and doors in unused rooms.

Currently, six million households get heating assistance under the federal Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program, or Liheap. The average family receiving heating assistance will get around \$359 from the federal government this winter. Some states add more money. Qualification for the federal program is based on income. To qualify, a single-person household must have gross monthly income of \$1,276 or less, and a family of four must make \$2,581 or less. For information you may contact the California Department of Community Services & Development toll-free at 1-866-675-6623. ~

CASINO *(continued)*

Inc., which has an agreement with the tribe to develop and manage the casino.

Lakes Entertainment currently has development and management agreements with five separate Indian Tribes for new casino operations in Michigan, California, and Oklahoma, a total of eight separate casino sites.

Scheduled to open in October of this year, the casino will feature more than 2,000 slot machines, table games, six restaurants, four bars, and lighted and covered parking, according to the tribe. ~

Happy St. Patrick's Day

B.O.S. CANDIDATES NORRIS AND NUTTING ADDRESS BLAC

Bass Lake Action Committee hosted supervisor candidate for District 1, Harry Norris, and supervisor candidate for District 2, Ray Nutting, at the March regular meeting.

After introductions, both Norris and Nutting gave the attendees a background sketch and stated their reasons for running for county supervisor. A lively question and answer period followed the presentations.

Harry Norris - District 1



Harry Norris received a Bachelor of Arts degree in business from Colorado State University and pursued graduate studies at the University of South Dakota. A widower, Norris was married to his late wife Jan for 38 years. Their son, Brian, and his family live in Lakewood, Calif.

Norris was a guiding force on the El Dorado County Board of Education from 1994 to 2004.

Founder and owner of El Dorado Hills 76, Norris is widely respected among local business and community leaders. He has been awarded Citizen of the Year by the El Dorado Hills Chamber of Commerce and Small Business of the Year by the El Dorado County Chamber of Commerce. In addition, he has been active with the El Dorado Hills Vision Coalition, El Dorado Hills Lions Club and Sugarloaf Foundation.

Among his current responsibilities, Norris serves on the El Dorado Irrigation District (EID) Board of Directors, to which he was elected in 2003 and led as president in 2006. He is credited with helping make reforms that have improved water quality, and enhanced customer service and operating efficiencies, saving rate payers millions of dollars. Norris also exhibited his leadership by helping forge a joint agreement among EID, the El Dorado County Board of Supervisors and other authorities that bolsters the county's efforts to recapture water rights currently held by the City of Sacramento.

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CANDIDATES *(continued)*

From 1968 to 1970 Norris served in the US Army. During his tour in Viet Nam, he was an Infantry Platoon Leader in the 101st Airborne Division and was awarded two Bronze Stars for service in combat.

“The sum of my local experience in business, civic affairs and government has given me important insights on traffic, open space, law enforcement, education, economic development and the other issues that will impact the welfare of El Dorado Hills and Cameron Park for years to come. Major challenges lie ahead; I will make sure we do things right,” said Norris.

**Ray Nutting - District 2**

Ray Nutting is a fourth generation El Dorado County resident who lives with his wife Jennifer and four sons on the family's ranch in Somerset. He graduated from Sacramento State in 1989 with a degree in History and Criminal Justice. He then got his teaching credential in 1990 and in addition to managing the ranch, began teaching.

Nutting ran for Supervisor in 1992 was elected. He was instrumental in obtaining matching funds which then allowed the Highway 50 HOV lane to be built in El Dorado Hills, acquiring the land for the EDH Library, obtaining a grant for the Pioneer Park Community Center, sponsoring changes in the Charter which prevent new taxes without voter approval, and was Board Chair in 1996 and President of the Regional Council of Rural Counties in 1999.

In 1996 he was elected to a second term with more than 60% of the vote. He supported the formation of the El Dorado Community Foundation, the continuance of the Wagon Train, saw the first Fire Safe Council formed, the Cameron Park Library built and voted against giving the Supervisors a pay raise.

“The many issues El Dorado County struggles with are quite visible to almost everyone. Without strong leadership, vision,

commitment and hard work, no one is going to unravel the bureaucratic snarl which now permeates county government. I have eight years experience working within this system. I know what the rules are and how to get things done. I can work with everyone from the heads of departments to the everyday rank and file. My doors will be always open and I plan to be a full-time supervisor,” said Nutting. ~



St. Patrick banishes the snakes

THE LEDGEND OF SAINT PATRICK OF IRELAND

True history and legend are intertwined when it comes to Saint Patrick.

The most famous legend about Saint Patrick is that he miraculously drove the snakes from Ireland. This is said to have occurred after he climbed mount Croagh Patrick outside Westport in County Mayo, and completed his forty-day Great Fast.

Differing tales say that he either stood upon a hill and used his wooden staff to drive the serpents into the sea, banishing them forever from the shores of Ireland; or rang his bell, or banged a drum, from the

top of Croagh Patrick, and caused them to flee into the sea.

Another legend says that one old serpent refused to leave, but the saint overcame it by cunning. He is said to have made a box and invited the reptile to enter. The snake insisted the box was too small and the discussion became very heated. Finally the snake entered the box to prove he was right, whereupon Saint Patrick slammed the lid upon the serpent and cast the box into the sea.

It is true there are no snakes in Ireland today. Chances are that there never have been any there, since Ireland has been an island since the end of the Ice Age, but the legend may have some basis in fact. Serpent symbols were common in many old pagan religions, and at times snakes were even worshipped. Serpents were said to be a symbol of the Druids at that time. Driving the snakes from Ireland may have been symbolic of Saint Patrick converting the Druids to Christianity.

But banishing the snakes makes a much more entertaining story. ~

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